

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Cancelled)

Claim 2 (Cancelled)

Claim 3 (Cancelled)

Claim 4 (Cancelled)

Claim 5 (Currently amended) A process for producing methacrylic acid through catalytic vapor-phase oxidation of methacrolein or catalytic vapor-phase oxidative dehydrogenation of isobutyric acid, characterized by using a catalyst which has been reactivated by ~~the method of claim 1 comprising treating a catalyst for use in methacrylic acid production by vapor-phase oxidation of methacrolein or vapor-phase oxidative dehydrogenation of isobutyric acid, which catalyst contains P and Mo and exhibits reduced activity, with a gas containing a nitrogen-containing heterocyclic compound.~~

Claim 6 (Cancelled)

Claim 7 (Cancelled)

Claim 8 (Cancelled)

Claim 9 (Cancelled)

Claim 10 (Cancelled)

Claim 11 (Newly presented) A process for producing methacrylic acid through catalytic vapor-phase oxidation of methacrolein or catalytic vapor-phase oxidative dehydrogenation of isobutyric acid, characterized by using a catalyst which has been reactivated by a method comprising treating a catalyst for use in methacrylic acid production by vapor-phase oxidation of

methacrolein or vapor phase oxidative dehydrogenation of isobutyric acid, which catalyst contains P and Mo and exhibits reduced activity, with a gas containing a nitrogen-containing heterocyclic compound and steam; or with a gas containing a nitrogen-containing heterocyclic compound and a steam containing gas.

Claim 12 (Newly presented) A process for producing methacrylic acid through catalytic vapor-phase oxidation of methacrolein or catalytic vapor-phase oxidative dehydrogenation of isobutyric acid, characterized by using a catalyst which has been reactivated by a method comprising treating a catalyst for use in methacrylic acid production by vapor-phase oxidation of methacrolein or vapor-phase oxidative dehydrogenation of isobutyric acid, which catalyst contains P and Mo and exhibits reduced activity, with a gas containing a nitrogen-containing heterocyclic compound, wherein the nitrogen-containing heterocyclic compound is at least one compound selected from pyridine, piperidine, piperazine, quinoline and derivatives thereof.

Claim 13 (Newly presented) A process for producing methacrylic acid through catalytic vapor-phase oxidation of methacrolein or catalytic vapor-phase oxidative dehydrogenation of isobutyric acid, characterized by using a catalyst which has been reactivated by a method comprising treating a catalyst for use in methacrylic acid production by vapor-phase oxidation of methacrolein or vapor phase oxidative dehydrogenation of isobutyric acid, which catalyst contains P and Mo and exhibits reduced activity, with a gas containing a nitrogen-containing heterocyclic compound and steam; or with a gas containing a nitrogen-containing heterocyclic compound and a steam containing gas, wherein the nitrogen-containing heterocyclic compound is at least one compound selected from pyridine, piperidine, piperazine, quinoline and derivatives thereof.